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Reference :

Report Date : 7 May 1945

Source : Interrogation of
OSTRICH

Information Date : 20 April to 7 May

Sub-Source :

Date Info. Received : 20 April to 7 May 1945

Evaluation :

FPX-6512 X-2 TS 1130

SUBJECT : OSTRICH Interrogation *cred*
from a booklet by Michael K.H.

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The attached information has been received during the period noted above. Since the date of these interrogations it has been determined that Pierre LAGARDERE, FRANCINE and Mimi GUINAND are in Paris and will be arrested shortly. Jean BARBOT and Rene NEY are also known to be in Paris and steps are being taken for their apprehension. Marcel DUNKER alias Marcel DALERIS and Blanche GIEU @ Maria ROSSI have been arrested by the ST of Marseilles and have been brought to Paris for interrogation.

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30 April 1945.

About the 20th of April when OSTRICH left Kommando HAGEN he states that it was composed of the following people:

Kommandofuehrer: Sturmbannfuehrer Hans DUFFNER
 Obersturnfuehrer Charlie HAGEDORN
 Hauptscharfuehrer Hans ULLBRICH
 Unterscharfuehrer Hans KUSAK
 Unterscharfuehrer Hermann VALENTIN
 Unterscharfuehrer Fritz FINKLER
 SS Soldat HENNINGER
 Unteroffizier Joseph SCHOLZ
 Stabsgefreiter WEGENER
 SS Soldat DUNKER
 Unterscharfuehrer Jean BARBOT

The following French people were attached to the Kommando:

Unterscharfuehrer Jean (?) OLIVIERI
 Unterscharfuehrer Louis MARINI
 Leo MARTIN
 Blanche CIEU

There were also seven other French people whose names OSTRICH does not know. He gave their cover names to Capitaine Masse of the Securite Militaire at Freiburg.

In addition OSTRICH mentions Pierre LAGARDERE, Edmond COLOMBANI, and Gerard LITT. There were two women with LAGARDERE, one named Francine and the other Mimi GUINAND (?). Mme. VLIENEN and her son, Mme. ZELLER and her son, and Mme. HARREL were to remain in the Waldsruhe Villa at Badenweiler. In addition, according to OSTRICH, there was a French maid who came with the group from Belfort.

Because the original plans of the Kommando could not be carried out DUFFNER decided to form small groups of capable people and have them join in the guerilla warfare.

According to the last orders given by BESILOW, Pierre LAGARDERE was to be passed into Switzerland by the WALZ organization with Francine and Mimi GUINAND and they were then to go on to France. OSTRICH feels that this plan could not have been carried out because of the shortness of time.

The group of seven French people whose names OSTRICH does not know were to be sent with Obersturnfuehrer DOBROWICH to NEISSER in San Remo, but again OSTRICH feels that the project could not have been carried out because of the lack of time.

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The group made up of DUNKER, MARTIN, GIEU, OLIVIERI and MARINI was split up by OSTRICH who caused trouble between DUNKER and his mistress GIEU and among the other men with the result, according to OSTRICH, that the group will not be in action any more.

About the 15 April DUFFNER sent a truck to the Ausweissquartier of Amt VI/S which at that time was at Hof or Altal in Bavaria, for obtaining sabotage material. OSTRICH does not know if the truck returned or not.

Kommando HAGEN is now, according to OSTRICH, in the "Jugendherberge" at Schlaechtenhausen where they have a food dump and a sabotage material dump.

DESCRIPTIONS

- Hans DUFFNER: Sturmbannfuehrer. About 38, looks 45; lm72; medium build; blond; type of poet and thinker. Pharmacist. Was with the SD in Paris and Vichy.
- Hermann VALENTIN: Unterscharfuehrer. About 37; lm82; extremely strongly built; very thin brown hair. Speaks good French.
- Fritz FINKLER: Unterscharfuehrer. 28; lm68; very thin; very hollow cheeks; long thin prominent nose; brown hair; bad stomach. Born in Metz.
- HENNINGER: SS Soldat. About 40, looks 30; lm66; small and thin; light brown hair. Speaks good French. Formerly in Foreign Legion.
- Joseph SCHOLZ: Unteroffizier. lm70; slender; brown hair; slightly effeminate walk. Wears Luftwaffe uniform. Instructor in radio.
- WEGENER: nickname DEDDI - Stabsgefreiter and Verwaltungsfuehrer for Kommando HAGEN. lm66; small; very thin; light brown hair; lisps.
- DUNKER: alias Marcel DALERIS - SS Soldat. Native town Halle. 37; lm70; brown hair, thin; speaks French and English. Has been in the States and England.
- Jean BARBOT: Unterscharfuehrer. 24; lm72; slender; very black hair; brown eyes; formerly LVF. French.
- Jean (?) OLIVIERI: alias Tomas RICCI - Unterscharfuehrer. 23; lm65-66; slender; very dark hair; prominent nose. Typical Corsican. Nervous in his movements.
- Louis MARINI: 33; lm84; slender; very long curly black hair; eagle nose. Spanish origin. Speaks French with Spanish accent. Unterscharfuehrer.

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Leo MARTIN: Cover name; 25; 1m75; slender; black hair.

Blanche GIEU: alias Maria ROSSI - 24; small delicate build; hair combed high in a pompadour. Mistress of DUNKER.

Edward COLOMBANI: About 40; 1m70; brown bushy hair; very deep voice; one leg paralyzed. Is said to have been a sous-prefet in the south of France. Corsican.

Francine X: 26; 1m67; very dark; fairly heavy; petty brunette.

Mimi GUINAND: 28; 1m67; brunette. Comes from Normandy. Pregnant.

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When OSTRICH first saw BESEKOW and SKORZENY at the end of January there was a discussion about the possibility of attempts against the lives of various military and political personalities. OSTRICH was told that an attempt against DE GAULLE was not desirable at that moment, but that, on the contrary, attempts against the lives of prominent Communists like THOREZ were desirable.

OSTRICH also stated that later on while he was at Badenweiler he delivered a lecture to several high SS officers about the general situation in France. At the end of the lecture Hauptsturmfuehrer KUBAT and Oberleutnant DERKSEN asked OSTRICH what he thought of General De Lattre De Tassigny. They asked him if he thought it would be of any use to get into direct contact with DeTassigny. They also asked OSTRICH if he thought De Tassigny was pro-American, if he were not more friendly to the English, or if he were possibly accessible to the idea of a Europe for the Europeans and to the idea of collaboration between Germany and France against the Communists. OSTRICH was not told whether they were going to try to get in touch with De Tassigny or not, but in later discussions which he overheard between KUBAT and DERKSEN and other SS and SD people OSTRICH thought there must exist some idea on the part of the Germans of getting into touch with De Tassigny and that perhaps Standartenfuehrer BICKLER had actually made an attempt already.

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1 May 1945.

OSTRICH gave the following information about Kommando ADLER which he says is a Wehrmacht undertaking.

The Kommandofuehrer is Oberleutnant MERCK alias Captain KAISER whose description is as follows: 78; about 1m70; strong build; light brown hair; asthmatic; wears Wehrmacht uniform and always wears a silk scarf.

The headquarters of the Kommando was in a hostelry, Gaststaete Waldhorn at Schweighof near Badenweiler. The Kommando is under the orders of the Ic of the XVIII SSK Hauptsturmfuehrer KUBAT and has about thirty members. The purpose of Kommando ADLER was Frontaufklaerung and intelligence work behind the Allied lines but KUBAT told OSTRICH that the Kommando had never succeeded in accomplishing anything despite the fact that they had been given special gas rations. OSTRICH saw the Kommando for the last time about the 15th of April and has no further information about it.

Under Kommando ADLER there were two other Kommandos. One was the Kommando KIEBITZ whose headquarters were in the restaurant Zur Krone at Sulzburg. The Kommandofuehrer was Unteroffizier OTT whose description is as follows: about 75-76; 1m65; brown hair slightly greying; wears glasses; smokes a pipe. Swiss from the Canton of Zurich. Speaks German and French with a Swiss accent. This Kommando was under Obergrefreiter Johnny PLUMM from Cologne who was with TONIN last autumn in the Villa Sans Souci at Gerardmer. PLUMM was transferred about 12 April contrary to MERCK's wishes to the Sonderkommando Badenweiler. PLUMM's description is as follows: about 78; 1m62; light brown hair; married with two children (his wife and children were with him); formerly a barman; has a high thin voice like a woman's. The purpose of Kommando KIEBITZ was the same as that of Kommando ADLER and like it has accomplished nothing.

Also under Kommando ADLER was the Kommando at Kandern. OSTRICH does not know the name of the Kommando and knows only one member of the group, Louis DECEBRE alias Louis CHEVALIER. The Kommando moved to Freiburg about the 10th of April where its headquarters were on the Kronenstrasse. The Kommandofuehrer was Unteroffizier WITTMANN whose description is as follows: about 77; 1m78; fairly strong build; light brown hair; nose bent to one side; red face; always in civilian clothes. Speaks good French. When OSTRICH saw WITTMANN about the 15th of April WITTMANN told him that the Kommando was going to move to Waldkirch. OSTRICH says that the purpose of Kommando was the same as that of Kommando ADLER and like it has also accomplished nothing.

OSTRICH also gave some information about a Kommando at Munsterhalden (Untermunstertal). This Kommando was under the direct orders of Hauptsturmfuehrer KUBAT. The Kommandofuehrer was Untersturmfuehrer FERNER whose description is: about 75; 1m75; slender athletic appearance; very blond thin hair; blue eyes; squashed nose; takes good care of the

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men under him and is admired by them; speaks good French; an Austrian. The description of Hauptsturmfuehrer KUBAT is as follows: 33; lm68; young and open face; blond hair; formerly in the Wehrmacht and was a battallion chief on the Russian front; in 1942 was a simple soldier and became an officer because of his courage; has several high decorations; comes from the Eger region of the Sudetenland.

KUBAT asked Ostrich to visit the members of the Kommando located in the mountains at Untermunstertal and during the first part of April Ostrich went there. The day he arrived five of PERNER's men were preparing to leave via Switzerland for France in order to carry out a short mission for the purpose of gathering military information. This group was under the orders of an Alsatian called HAMM. Ostrich does not know whether this was a cover or a real name. HAMM was 33; lm70; heavily built; dark brown hair; very large mouth; bad teeth. He had a number of high decorations. The group was to be back within a week but had not returned at the end of a fortnight. KUBAT said that he had successfully sent a man across the Allied lines each week and that they had even sent men back across the Rhine. They had been successful in obtaining military information but they had done no sabotage. The group under HAMM were to be helped through Switzerland by the Organisation WALZ.

Ostrich also gave some information on Organisation WALZ which is headed by Obersturmfuehrer WALZ whom Ostrich knew in Mulhausen in 1942. WALZ is running an organisation which helps people to pass through Switzerland into France. Through his contacts in Switzerland WALZ is able to pass groups of five and six men into France. With the help of a Swiss customs official at the Frenzacher Horn to whom WALZ gives information on people in Switzerland who are wanted for arrest, thus enabling the Swiss customs official to get in the good graces of his superiors, WALZ sends his men by car through Switzerland directly to Montbeliard and Besancon. When they arrive at the French frontier they pose as inspectors of French food supplies. Oberleutnant DERKSEN, Kompaniefuehrer of Kompanie Skorpion Rheingau Propaganda Abteilung, told Ostrich that with the aid of WALZ's organisation he had been able to spend a week in France at the end of March travelling as an inspector of food supplies. Ostrich says that WALZ had his headquarters in the building of the Landgericht in Lorrach. WALZ also had his own radio station and a Gesamte Aussenstelle at Grenzach in the Cafe Eckert. Mention was frequently made of an Untersturmfuehrer EKERT but Ostrich does not know if there is any connection between EKERT and the Cafe Ekert.

The following people were connected with Organisation WALZ.

WALZ: real name MALZACHER *Fritz*
42; lm73; light brown curly hair; stooping walk; distinguished looking; always wears civilian clothes; comes from the region between Basle and Constance. Was chief of the Ast at Altkirch in Alsace.

WAGNER:

Oberleutnant. 45; lm68; heavy set; very short hair cut; typical German official; comes from the region of Lorrach.

Kurt FISCHER: Hauptmann

about 35; lm75; blond; slender; badly wounded in the shoulder and in other parts of the body; plays poker.

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Lore MUEHLICH:
Secretary. lm65; brown hair combed high.

Ostrich also said about WALZ that the two of them had been closed friends but that after WALZ had heard the story told by TONIN about Ostrich, WALZ was extremely suspicious of him.

Ostrich also reported on the Kompanie Skorpion Rheingau Propaganda Abteilung of the XVIII SS AK which was under the orders of the Ic of the XVIII SS AK Hauptsturmfuehrer KUBAT. Kompanie Skorpion was composed chiefly of members of the SS Propaganda Standarte Kurt EGGERS. There were between sixty to seventy men in the Kompanie. The headquarters of the Kompanie was at Untermunstertal and the Kompanie fuehrer was Oberleutnant DERKSEN. The purpose of Kompanie was to spread propaganda among the French troops. They sent over tracts contained in specially made grenades; they put up big signs along the Rhine bank; they sent over propaganda in gas-filled balloons or in Montgolfieri balloons. In addition they were supposed to encourage the German troops at the front.

Three aussenstellen which were called trupps made up Kompanie Skorpion. The first trupp was in Wasser between Freiburg and Openburg. This was the balloon trupp. The second trupp was at Schweighof near Badenweiler and the third at Kandern between Badenweiler and Lorrach. The last two trupps were especially for slogans, tracts and signs.

✓ Karl Heinz DERKSEN:

Kompaniefuehrer of Kompanie Skorpion. Oberleutnant.
33; lm70; slender; very thin brown hair; brown moustache; does not see well out of one eye and sometimes wears a monocle; eyes pop out. Wears uniform of a German Panzer unit. Journalist in civilian life. Comes from Bremen. Speaks very good English and was in England for a long time. School friend of Charlie HAGEDORN's.

✓ Heinrich GERNAND:

Fuehrer of Kompanie Skorpion Trupp at Schweighof. Unterscharfuehrer.
About 38; lm82-lm84; blond curly hair; blue eyes; very good-looking; comes from a poor family of Kassel; old Nazi party member and was a Standartenfuehrer in the Allgeheine SS. During 1942-1944 was an advisor attached to the German embassy at Copenhagen and Stockholm.

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While OSTRICH was in Freiburg in March and April he reports that he frequently saw some young men and women who obviously belonged to some organization. OSTRICH states that he met a young woman who belonged to this group. Her name was Hildegard HAUCK who was an embroiderer, small and brunette. She told OSTRICH that the group had about twenty members under the orders of a Major HAAS. The headquarters of the group was at Wilhelm Gustloffstrasse 19, Freiburg. They were instructed in radio and were to be stay-behind W/T agents after the Allied occupation. OSTRICH knows nothing further about the organization.

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